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25 February 1976

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Additional Thoughts on the Organization  
of COMIREX

1. It is likely that the Chairman, COMIREX, and his immediate staff will be transferred to the IC Staff with the operating subcommittees assigned to CIA as a service of common concern. The following outlines an organizational arrangement for managing the elements attached to CIA in a manner that enhances their operation, consolidates some activities, and merges the requirements process more closely with the substantive analytic activity.

2. The proposal is to combine the COMIREX subcommittees, ICRS and EXSUBCOM, into a single requirements subcommittee which would report to the Chairman, COMIREX, who will be on the IC Staff. The staff supporting the requirements subcommittee and manning  would be operationally and administratively attached to the CIA Operations Center. The Operations Center would absorb CGAS as well as the NRO Satellite Operations Center.

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3. This arrangement would retain the formal ties between the resource and policy functions of the IC Staff and the operating elements of COMIREX. It would consolidate the operating functions of ICRS and EXSUBCOM with those of NRO SOC. More importantly, the merger of the imagery requirements/operations function with the operations center would more closely tie the requirements and tasking activity with the substantive user. During normal periods and particularly during crises, the collocation of collection system managers, exploitation guidance elements, and substantive analysts would significantly improve responsiveness of collection to changing needs.

4. Some provision would be required for handling the unique requirements of CIA. Production offices could assume more responsibility in this area. A small staff in the CFI Operations and Requirements Center could consolidate the requirements and represent CIA interests in the prioritization process.

5. To forestall criticism that the new organization was a captive of CIA, it could be named the CFI Operations and Requirements Center and made directly responsible to the DCI. It is possible that some operating elements of the other USIB Committees -- SORS for example -- might be effectively incorporated into this organization which would further improve the interaction between collection systems and users.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Lehman

SUBJECT: COMIREX "Realignment"

This memo proposes a somewhat radical approach to organizing COMIREX, CGAS and the Operations Center. It would move the collection/exploitation process closer to the user. The major problem would be to ensure a direct line between the Chairman, COMIREX and the imagery requirements element, and to develop a real "community" support organization.

  
Dick Kerr  
COMIREX

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